



Sexual assault is a violent crime and victims suffer severe and lasting trauma. As Maricopa County Attorney, it is my responsibility to see that sex offenders are prosecuted. Last year the Maricopa County Attorney's Office received more than 680 sexual assault cases for prosecution. Sadly these cases included child victims as well as adults victims.

Although my office reviews and prosecutes a large number of sexual assault cases, there are countless more incidences which go unreported. This brochure will assist you in reporting sexual assault, as well as inform you of what other actions are necessary to ensure successful prosecution of sexual assault cases. You will also find information on counseling services, victim services, victim compensation and prevention.

I urge you to read this brochure and save it for reference. It is important for you to report any sexual assault, whether you are the victim or a person with knowledge of the crime. We can make our community safer and stronger for everyone by working together to bring these individuals to justice.

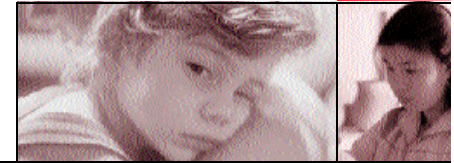
Sincerely,

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SEXUAL ASSAULT



Sexual Assault
If You Are Assaulted
Counseling
Victim Assistance
Victim Compensation
Prevention



MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is the act of having non-consensual sex with another person. This involves any act of sexual violence including date rape, spousal rape, stranger rape, unwanted touching, or any sexual behavior exhibited toward a child under the age of 15. Unfortunately, there is a major misconception about sexual assault — most people believe these violent acts are carried out by strangers. Although sexual assault is the fastest rising violent crime in America today, stranger-rape is not the leading form of sexual assault. The majority of victims involved in non-fatal, violent sexual assault know, and more than likely trust, the offender.

In many cases, the sexual offender and/or the victim had been drinking and/or using drugs. The use of alcohol or drugs is never an excuse to commit unwanted sexual acts.

If You Are Assaulted

Cooperation with police and prosecutors will bring sexual offenders to justice. Legal proceedings may prevent other women or children from becoming victims of sexual assault. The Maricopa County Attorney needs help to successfully prosecute these individuals. If you or someone you know are the victim of a sexual assault, follow the steps below.

- Immediately call the police. They are trained to respond.
- Do not shower, bathe, douche, or change clothes until you have been medically examined.
- As soon as possible, receive a medical examination. A medical examination allows evidence to be recorded by a professional
- Do not touch any evidence. Do not change the sheets or touch anything the assailant might have touched. These actions will destroy medical and legal evidence.

- Write down a description of the person who assaulted you: age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, and any other noticeable physical characteristics.
- If needed, seek counseling. You are not alone and trained specialists are available to help. For a toll-free rape crisis hotline, call (800) 656-HOPE.
- If someone sexually assaults you, it is not your fault. You are never to blame for someone else's actions.
- If your child is the victim of sexual assault, the same procedures apply. Leave the questioning of your child about the incident or incidents to a trained authority.

Counseling

Sexual assault is a traumatic violation of a person. Many victims of this crime find consolation through professional counseling. Counseling is recommended as a way to relieve the feelings of isolation and fault.

Listed below are the numbers of several programs and crisis centers designed to specifically help sexual assault survivors:

Center Against Sexual Assault

24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (602) 257-8095

Camelback Behavioral Health Services

Help Line and Crisis Center:

1-800-253-1334

Community Information and Referral Service

24-Hour Information and Referral:

(602) 263-8856

Child Help Hotline

Nationwide Help Line: 1-800-790-2445

Victim Assistance

As a victim you have certain rights. When a case is filed by the Maricopa County Attorney, victims are contacted by the Victim Witness Division so your rights can be explained. A separate pamphlet explaining these rights is available. For a copy of our Victims' Rights brochure, call (602) 506-8522.

Victim Compensation

If you have been the victim of a sexual assault committed in Maricopa County, you may be eligible for victim compensation. Victim compensation is designed to assist you with financial expenses incurred because of the sexual assault. You can apply for victim compensation to cover: medical expenses; mental health counseling; and lost wages.

You are eligible for victim compensation if you: are in the United States legally; are victimized in Maricopa County; report the crime to a police agency within 72-hours; willingly cooperate with appropriate law enforcement agencies; and file an application with the Victim Compensation Bureau within two years of the date of the crime.

To file a victim compensation claim, contact:

Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Victim Compensation Bureau

301 W. Jefferson, Suite 900

Phoenix, AZ 85003-2151

(602) 506-4955

Prevention

Area police departments are a good source of information on sexual assault. Police departments offer self-defense classes as well as provide information and presentations about sexual assault. Arming one's self with knowledge is often the best weapon for preventing sexual assault.

Here is a list of the police agencies in Maricopa County which currently conduct sexual assault classes:

Chandler Police: (602) 786-2823

Glendale Police: (602) 931-5547

Mesa Police: (602) 644-2300

Paradise Valley Police: (602) 948-7418

Scottsdale Police: (602) 391-5212

Tempe Police: (602) 350-8305

Phoenix Police: *Contact you local precinct.*

For help locating your precinct call 262-7626.